

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-6 and 9-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Snelson, U.S. Patent No. 6,739,937 B2, in view of Barlow, U.S. Patent No. 4,271, 628. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

It should be noted that claim 6 is no longer pending in the above-identified application since it was canceled in the Amendment filed in the above-identified application on December 15, 2009. Claims 1-5 and 9-13 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer to including those claims in a continuation application, in order to place the above-identified application in condition for allowance.

Claims 8 and 16 were allowed.

Claims 7 and 15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Reconsideration of the objection is respectfully requested.


Claims 7 and 15 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims in order to place them in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, allowance of claims 7-8 and 15-16 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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RCF/MIM:lac



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